CLAIMS

1. A load carrier (10) equipped with a system of fixing to a rear part of a vehicle (14) comprising:
- a longitudinal arm (12), one end (16) of which is capable of co-operating with a sleeve (18) solidly connected to an element of the structure (20) of the vehicle (14),
- a lever (24), one end (22) of which is mounted such that it can rotate, with respect to the arm (12), on a transverse pin (26) carried by the end (16) of the arm (12),
- a return means (28) incorporated between the lever (24) and the arm (12), exerting a force, whose direction is shown by the arrow F1,
- a means of locking the fixing system,
characterized in that the locking means is a handle (30) having a gripping part (30a) and a part forming a cam (30b) mounted such that, with respect to the lever (24), it can rotate on a transverse pin (32) carried by the free end (34) of the lever (24), between:
- an unlocked state, in which the movement of the handle (30) around the pin (32) is free between a position in which it abuts against the free end (34) of the lever (24) and a position in which a so-called "leading" point (C) of the surface of the cam (30b) is in contact with the arm (12), and
- a locked state, in which the movement of the handle (30) around the pin (32) and the co-operation of the handle (30) with the arm (12) cause the lever (24) to rotate on the pin (26) in a clockwise direction as far as a locked end position of the lever (24), in which the lever (24), under stress, is solidly connected to the sleeve (18).

2. The load carrier (10) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a groove contrived in the surface of

the cam (30b) is guided along the arm (12).

3. The load carrier (10) as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that the groove and the arm (12) are of complementary shape.

4. The load carrier (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the leading point (C) is the point of the surface of the cam (30b) furthest away from the pin (32).

5. The load carrier (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the distance (d1) between the pin (32) and the point (C) of the cam (30b) is greater than a distance (d2) corresponding to the distance between the pin (32) and the arm (12), when the lever (24) is in a locked end position.

6. The load carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that, when locking the handle (30), the distance between the pin (32) and the arm (12) increases after the point (C) has been passed.

7. The load carrier as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the pin (32) of the handle (30) is mounted in translation within a slot (42) contrived in the sides (33) of the lever (24) such that the distance between the pin (32) and the pin (26) can be made to vary.

8. The load carrier (10) as claimed in the preceding claim, characterized in that means of locking the pin (32) inside the slot (42) are provided.

9. The load carrier (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a lock is provided to solidly connect the handle (30) to the free end (34) of the lever (24) extending beneath the gripping part (30a).

10. The load carrier (10) as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a ratchet means is provided to solidly connect the handle (30) to the free end (34) of the lever (24) extending beneath the gripping part (30a).